

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KIGALI 00397 071953Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /066 W

-----072008Z 107395 /44

R 060747Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4741

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 397

KINSHASA ALSO FOR DAO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PGOV, PINT, PINR, RW

SUBJECT: SENIOR MILITARY PROMOTIONS ANNOUNCED: SOME
POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS

REF KIGALI 383 (NOTAL)

1. SENIOR MILITARY PROMOTIONS ANNOUNCED APR 5 MAY CONTAIN
SOME CLUE AS TO WHY FONMIN NSEKALIJE HAS BEEN UNAVAILABLE TO
ME AND OTHER DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES DURING PAST TEN DAYS
(REFTEL). THEY ALSO SEEM TO REFLECT SOME FUNDAMENTAL
POLITICAL MOVEMENT IN OTHERWISE IMPENETRABLE LOCAL SCENE.

2. FOLLOWING SENIOR OFFICERS RECEIVED PROMOTIONS:

(A) FROM LTC TO COLONEL

KANYARENGWE ALEXIS (MIN INTERIOR)

(B) FROM MAJOR TO LTC

GAHIMANO FABIEN (DIR MILITARY ACADEMY)

SERUBUGA LAURENT (DEPUTY/ACTG CHIEF OF STAFF)

BUREGEYA BONAVENTURE (SECGEN PRESIDENCY)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KIGALI 00397 071953Z

NTIBITURA BONAVENTURE (DIR OPROVIA)

(C) FROM COMMANDANT TO MAJOR

LIZINDE THEONESTE (SECURITY CHIEF)

MUGABO EMMANUEL (G-1)

BANGAMWAMBO STANISLAS (G-4)

RWAGAFILITA PIERRE CELESTIN (MIN CIVIL SERVICE)

3. I AM TOLD BY PROTOCOL OFFICE THAT FONMIN IS "ILL." I SUSPECT HIS ILLNESS MAY HAVE BEEN INDUCED BY PROMOTION OF HIS ARCH-RIVAL, INTERIOR MINISTER KANYARENGWE, TO RANK ABOVE HIS OWN (LTC). KANYARENGWE, WHO IS GENERALLY REGARDED IN EXPAT COMMUNITY AS "SINISTER" AND CHIEF THREAT TO HABYARIMANA HIMSELF, THUS BECOMES SECOND MOST SENIOR RWANDAN MILITARY OFFICER AFTER PRESIDENT. AND WHEREAS NSEKALIJE WAS PREVIOUSLY ONE OF ONLY FOUR LTC'S (WITH KANYARENGWE, SEMI-RETIRED BENDA, AND TOKEN-TUTSI RUHASHYA), HE IS NOW SWAMPED IN A GROUP OF SEVEN.

4. BUT MAYBE WORSE, NSEKALIJE SEEMS TO BE GROWING ESTRANGED FROM PRESIDENT WHILE THE SUPPOSEDLY SINISTER KANYARENGWE MOVES CLOSER TO HIM. RUMORS HAVE CIRCULATED INCESSANTLY OF LATE THAT THE FONMIN WAS IN FACT AT HEAD OF CLIQUE OF DISGRUNTLED MILITARY OFFICERS CRITICAL OF HABYARIMANA FOR PAYING TOO LITTLE ATTENTION TO HIS ARMY AND TOO MUCH TO THE MRND, "UMUGANDA" (VOLUNTARY LABOR PROJECTS), AND CIVILIAN DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES. IF THERE WAS ANY BASIS FOR THESE RUMORS, PRESIDENT SEEMS TO HAVE BOUGHT FONMIN'S SUPPORTERS OUT FROM UNDER HIM, TO JUDGE FROM LIST OF COMMANDANTS AND MAJORS PROMOTED.

5. KANYARENGWE, MEANWHILE, AS INTERIOR MINISTER, HAS INDEED BEEN IN CONSTANT NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT DURING SAME PERIOD. CENTRAL FEATURE OF RWANDAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN IS THOROUGH-GOING REFORM OF ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE WHICH RUNS FROM INTERIOR MINISTER OUT THROUGH PREFETS, BOURGMESTRES, AND LOCAL COUNCILS. ARM IN ARM WITH (CIVILIAN) SEC GEN OF MRND,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KIGALI 00397 071953Z

KANYARENGWE HAS GONE FROM COMMUNE TO COMMUNE EXPLAINING NEW SYSTEM--WHICH AIMS AT IMPROVED DELIVERY OF GOVT SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS--AS PRIMARY ELEMENT IN MOBILIZING RWANDAN DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. THIS CENTRAL ROLE, PLUS HIS NEW PROMOTION, WOULD APPEAR TO SEAT HIM SECURELY AT PRESIDENT'S RIGHT HAND.

6. BIO NOTE: FILES SHOW THAT KANYARENGWE HAS IN PAST BEEN CONSIDERED PARTICULARLY UNFRIENDLY TO THIS EMBASSY AND A POTENTIAL MISCHIEF-MAKER. AMB. FRITTS REPORTED THAT HABYARIMANA SUSPECTED KANYARENGWE OF FOMENTING DISCORD AMONG GOR BUREAUCRATS AND STIMULATING ANTI-TUTSI SENTIMENT, AND WAS SEEKING TO CURB HIS ACTIVITIES. (HE CERTAINLY DOES NOT CHARM CHROWDS IN PUBLIC APPEARANCES.) NEVERTHELESS, PRESIDENT HAS ENTRUSTED HIM WITH MISSIONS TO ARAB STATES, LIBYA IN PARTICULAR, AS WELL AS OTHER IMPORTANT AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC TASKS. MY OWN CONTACTS WITH HIM STARTED OUT COOL; IN AN EARLY CONVERSATION, HE DISPLAYED A DEFENSIVE, NONE-OF-YOUR-BUSINESS ATTITUDE TOWARD DEVELOPMENTS IN UGANDA. SINCE THEN, HOWEVER, I HAVE FOUND HIM INCREASINGLY MODERATE,

FRIENDLY, AND SOLICITOUS TOWARD ME PERSONALLY. LET'S HOPE
IT CONTINUES--WE WILL OBVIOUSLY BE WORKING WITH HIM MORE
AND MORE CLOSELY ON DEVELOPMENT MATTERS.
CRIGLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL PROMOTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KIGALI00397
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770122-0025
Format: TEL
From: KIGALI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770483/aaaacueo.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 512254a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 KIGALI 383
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2884326
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SENIOR MILITARY PROMOTIONS ANNOUNCED: SOME POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS
TAGS: MILI, PGOV, PINT, PINR, RW, (NSEKALIJE, ALOYS), (KANYARENGWE, ALEXIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/512254a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009